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28 January 1958

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : Operation Alert 1958

1. Transmitted herewith is a copy of Program Memorandum X-14 published by the Office of Defense Mobilization under date of 20 January 1958. This is the first formal announcement to be issued on Operation Alert 1958. It was designed only to lay down the principles governing the exercise and to give the time schedule. Detailed announcements will be made from time to time in the future as the plans are developed in greater detail.

2. Preliminary conferences held with appropriate officials of the Office of Defense Mobilization before the issuance of Program Memorandum X-14 indicate that we will have the same understanding as has prevailed in the past with regard to the adapting of our participation to fit our own peculiar requirements in this year's exercise.

3. Copies of Program Memorandum X-14 have been sent to the designated planning officers of the Deputy Director (Plans), the Deputy Director (Intelligence), the Deputy Director (Coordination), and the staffs and offices of the DD/S component, and to the

4. We shall keep you advised of all further developments as plans are developed and revealed by the Office of Defense Mobilization.

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[REDACTED]  
Emergency Planning Officer

Enclosure:

Copy of Program Memorandum X-14 (ODM)

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION**  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 20, 1958  
PROGRAM MEMORANDUM X-14

TO HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Operation Alert 1958

1. The purpose of "Operation Alert 1958" is to examine the readiness of the nation at local, state and national levels to meet a direct nuclear attack on the United States.

2. Objectives of the exercise are:

A. To improve national readiness by--

- (1) Local and state governments evaluating, on the basis of their own resources, their capabilities to cope with the attack situation and determining the kinds of Federal assistance needed and how such assistance would be utilized.
- (2) The Federal Government determining its capability to meet demands arising from the attack and examining the adequacy of Federal Guidance and Mobilization Plans to meet the attack situation.

B. To determine what significant preparedness measures, if taken pre-attack, would make the post-attack job more manageable.

C. To train personnel in local, state and federal governments in habits of thinking needed to cope with emergency conditions.

3. The exercise will be conducted within the scope of Mobilization Plans and Federal Guidance (Central Programming) furnished to federal, state and local agencies.

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4. The situation on which the exercise is to be based will be a direct nuclear attack on the United States, with tactical warning only.

5. The exercise will be conducted in three phases, as follows:

Phase One--Attack Phase:

Time--May 6-7.

Participation--State and local civil defense organizations and supporting personnel including field personnel of federal agencies, as appropriate.

Activity--State and local civil defense emergency actions, including public participation, damage reporting and assessment, and local and state survival and recovery actions. States to determine the kinds of Federal assistance needed and report any excess of resources over and above their own requirements.

Phase Two--Federal Action Phase:

Time--July 14-18.

Participation--Federal agencies (field, region and departmental).

Activity--Activation of relocation sites at field and region July 14th, and at departmental and agency headquarters July 16th. On July 14-15 field and regional activities will be conducted independently. The validity of States' needs will be examined, as well as ways and means for meeting such needs within current plans and program guidance. On July 16-18 the departmental relocation sites will be in operation and in communication with regional and field offices.

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Phase Three -- Evaluation Phase:

Time -- September 15-16-17.

Participation--A small group, from each agency, having responsibility and authority for emergency plans and operations will be convened at the ODM relocation site along with selected regional representatives.

Activity--Examining the validity, feasibility and consistency of operational measures and the adequacy of policies and central programming guidance.

6. Guidelines, assumptions and administrative instructions for the exercise will be developed with the assistance of the Inter-Agency Planning Group.



Gordon Gray  
Director

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